CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented method of visually reporting the status of a resource having one or more status metrics associated therewith, said resource executing within a compute infrastructure, said method comprising:

generating a color changeable status icon associated with said resource;

associating a different color to said color changeable status icon to reflect the underlying state of said one or more status metrics;

comparing said one or more status metrics to a plurality of threshold conditions to determine the underlying state of said one or more status metrics;

displaying the appropriate color of said application status icon based on said comparison.

2. The method as in claim 1 wherein wherein the resource is used as a container for important metrics to be managed by the resource.

3. The method as in claim 1 wherein wherein the status icon is provided on a display device associated with a device running Microsoft's Windows-based operating system; said icon is displayed as part of the Windows System Tray.

4. The method as in claim 1 wherein the status icon is an iconized (minimized) Windows application, or any application in a windowing environment (e.g. X Windows).

5. The method as in claim 1 wherein the metrics are configurable.

6. The method as in claim 1 wherein the conditions that trigger the changed state of a metric are configurable.

7. The method as in claim 1 wherein the resource can manage other instances of itself, as a container of metrics or other instances of the resource.

8. The method as in claim 1 wherein the specific colors of the status icon represent multiple levels of severity conditions.

9. The method as in claim 1 wherein the specific shape or image of the status icon represents multiple levels of severity conditions.

10. The method as in claim 1 wherein the status icon is modifiable and animated.

11. The method as in claim 1 wherein a click (or drilldown) on the icon shows at least one list of icons that contain either at least one metric, or at least one icon representing another instance of the application (which may be reflecting more applications or more metrics).

12. The method as in claim 1 wherein the one or more metrics are determined as a result of running tests on a compute infrastructure.

13. The method as in claim 1 wherein a single test can aggregate the results of multiple important items, into a metric of higher importance (e.g. Service Level Compliance).

14. The method as in claim 1 wherein said one or more metrics are the result of queries to a predefined dynamic updatable database.

15. The method as in claim 1 wherein the display name of the test, as viewed by the user, can be different from the actual test name as required to gather information.

16. The method as in claim 1 wherein the details describing the test and thresholds are configurable.

17. The method as in claim 1 wherein the contact information including but not limited to a business owner and the a trouble ticket assignee is displayable.

18. The method as in claim 1 wherein an Alert, Alarm or Fault is associated with each metric, coming from one of many trouble ticket systems.

19. The method as in claim 1 wherein the status of the Alert, Alarm or Fault is tracked, including but not limited to Alert Level, Priority, Creation Data, Ticket Number, Assignee.

20. The method as in claim 1 wherein the historical performance of the metric can be observed.

21. The method as in claim 1 wherein multiple levels of historical performance can be observed (e.g. hourly, weekly, monthly).

22. The method as in claim 1 wherein the status icon can be located anywhere on the display device.

23. The method as in claim 1 wherein the status icon consists of graphics, text, video, audio or a combination thereof.